

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263297

FOLLOWING REPEAT SOFIA 2372 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE

BERLIN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST MOSCOW PRAGUE WARSAW LONDON NATO BONN

USBERLIN 29 OCT

QUOTE

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C O N F I D E N T I A A L SOFIA 2372

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE

SUBJECT: MONITORING OF WARSAW PACT CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A) STATE 231043; B) SOFPA 1648; C) SOFIA 2229;
D) SOFIA 2104; E) SOFIA 2295

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS BASELINE FOR FUTURE ASSESSMENTS OF PROGRESS, IF ANY, ATTRIBUTABLE TO CSCE, WE SUBMIT "SNAPSHOT" OF BULGARIA REQUESTED REFTEL A, BEGINNING WITH REVIEW OF OFFICIAL BULGARIAN POLICY AND FOLLOWED BY SECTION OF GENERAL COMMENT ON PUBLIC ATTITUDE. RESPONSE TO "CHECKLIST" BEGINS WITH PARA 7, WITH CAPTIONS AND ALPHABETICAL DESIGNATIONS OF SUB-PARAS SAME AS THOSE USED REFTEL A. END SUMMARY.

2. OFFICIAL ATTITUDE. BULGARIAN LEADERS AND MEDIA GREETED SIGNING OF FINAL ACT IN HELSINKI WITH EXTRAVAGANT PRAISE (REFTEL B), DIRECTED MOSTLY TOWARD PROVISIONS OF BASKET I. MIXED WITH THIS WAS ZHIVKOV WARNING THAT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE DID NOT EXTEND TO IDEOLOGICAL FIELD, SUBSEQUENTLY ELABORATED UPON BY HIS DAUGHTER LYUDMILA, IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE (REFTEL C). THESE FACETS HAVE DOMINATED OFFICIAL ATTITUDE AND PRESS TREATMENT DESPITE FONMIN MLADENOV'S STATEMENT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY THAT GOB DID NOT BELIEVE PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ONE AREA OR ELEMENT, BUT THAT ALL WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT (REFTEL D).

3. GOB HAS REITERATED MANY TIMES IT WILL STRICTLY ADHERE TO FINAL ACT, BUT HAS NEVER BEEN SPECIFIC ABOUT ANY OBLIGATION ASSUMED UNDER AGREEMENT. COMPLETE TEXT OF FINAL ACT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED DESPITE ASSURANCES TO AMBASSADOR LAST AUGUST THAT THIS WOULD SOON BE DONE. PRESS AT TIME OF HELSINKI SUMMIT DID CARRY COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF ALL BASKETS IN FINAL ACT, BUT EMPHASIS THEN AS SUBSEQUENTLY WAS ON BASKET I. IN ANY EVENT, CSCE HAS YET TO PRODUCE ANY OBVIOUS CHANGE
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IN BULGARIAN BEHAVIOR OR ATTITUDE.

4. PUBLIC ATTITUDE AND OPINION. WE HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT THE BULGARIAN PUBLIC THINK OF CSCE OR SEES AS ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM. THOSE DEPENDENT UPON BULGARIAN MEDIA WILL SEE ONLY THE OFFICIAL LINE NOTED ABOVE, DTT FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS MAY HAVE PROVIDED DIFFERENT PICTURE FOR SOME, EMBASSY HAS HAD EXTREMELY LIMITED NUMBER OF CASES WHERE BULGARIANS HOPING FOR VISAS AND EXIT PERMITS HAVE MENTIONED CSCE, BUT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC EXPECTATIONS OR PRESSURES HAVE BEEN AROUSED BY SIGNING OF FINAL ACT.

5. IN GENERAL, BULGARIAN ATTITUDE TENDS TO BE DOCILE AND APATHETIC, COWED BY TIGHT POLITICAL AND POLICE CONTROLS ON ONE HAND AND LURED BY LIMITED BUT INCREASING PROSPECTS OF BETTER MATERIAL LIFE ON ANOTHER. PEOPLE ARE NEITHER SEETHING WITH DISCONTENT NOR HOPEFUL OF GREAT CHANGE, AND THERE IS NO VISIBLE DISSIDENT INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH MANY UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD HAPPILY LEAVE THE COUNTRY, AT LEAST FOR VISITS, VERY FEW WILL CHALLENGE THE SYSTEM. SIMILARLY, DESIRE FOR WESTERN PUBLICATIONS OR CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS IS DAMPENED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY WITHOUT A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE REGIME'S PATTERN OF RIGOROUS CONTROL. LACK OF DOMESTIC PRESSURES MAKES IT EASIER FOR REGIME MAINTAIN ITS CONTROLS AND MAKES LESS LIKELY EITHER INTERNAL CONFRONTATIONS OR CHANGE IN PRACTICES DUE TO CSCE.

6. IN SUM, IN OUR JUDGMENT IT WILL BE SOVIET UNION'S ACTIONS THAT WILL LARGELY DETERMINE WHAT BULGARIA'S CSCE POLICY WILL BE, AND BULGARIA WILL FOLLOW LEAD OF USSR WITH ONLY MINOR VARIATIONS, AND POSSIBLY SOME DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION.

7. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US BUSINESSMEN.

A. ACCESS TO BUSINESS CONTACTS IS NARROW, AT
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FIRST USUALLY LIMITED TO FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS. ACCESS TO END-USERS OR RESEARCHERS TAKES TIME AND REPEAT CALLS; OFTEN US BUSINESSMAN HIMSELF DOESN'T KNOW IF HE HAS MET "RIGHT" PERSONS. INDIVIDUALS CHANGE POSITIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE REORGANIZED FREQUENTLY AND WITHOUT NOTICE, DESTROYING CONTINUITY OF CONTACT AND ADDING TO FRUSTRATION. IN SUM, BULGARIAN COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE KEEPS THE FOREIGN BUSINESSMAN AT ARM'S LENGTH, LIMITS HIS CONTACTS, AND WORKS TO KEEP HIM IGNORANT OF DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

B. POSSIBILITIES FOR ESTABLISHING PERMANENT OFFICES ARE ALMOYT NIL. SHELL, BANK OF NAPLES, AND MITSUI HAVE REPRESENTATIVES HERE, WHOSE STATUS IS NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR. LUFTHANSA AND BEA HAVE AIRLINE REPS IN SOFIA ON AN EXCHANGE BASIS WITH BALKANAIR. OTHER FIRMS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY DISCOURAGED FROM TRYING TO ESTABLISH REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES HERE AND INSTEAD HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO INTERPRED, AN OFFICIAL BULGARIAN ORGANIZATION WHICH REPRESENTS WESTERN BUSINESSES. THOSE BUSINESSMEN WHO TRY TO STAY ON THEIR VISITOR'S VISAS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE

CANNOT FIND OFFICE SPACE AND ARE GENERALLY REFUSED VISA EXTENSIONS.

C. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE TIGHT, COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVELY INADEQUATE, AND BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL PREMISES UNOBTAINABLE (SEE PART B). HOTEL SPACE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMEWHAT INADEQUATE, BUT IS PARTICULARLY SO NOW WITH ONE MAJOR HOTEL CLOSED FOR REPAIRS.. COMMUNICATIONS ARE SLOW BUT GENERALLY WORK; INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES SEEM TO LACK PEOPLE WITH MUCH FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAPABILITY.

D. AVAILABILITY OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION IS POOR. WHEN NOT CONSIDERED A STATE SECRET, IT IS USUALLY INCOMPLETE, INADEQUATE, AND SLOPPILY PREPARED. RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ARE VERY SLOW, BUT LISTS OF FOREIGN TRADE ENTITIES AND INFORMATION ON FOREIGN TRADE LAWS ARE GENERALLY AVAILABLE. LISTS OF KEY OFFICIALS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN TRADE ENTITIES ARE NON-EXISTENT, AND OBTAINING SUCH INFORMATION IS EXTREMELY TIME-CONSUMING. ORGANIZATPON CHARTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. THERE ARE LARGE GAPS IN STATISTICAL INFORMATION, AND METHODS OF CALCULATION ARE NEVER EXPLAINED. ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROJECTIONS ARE RELEASED IRREGULARLY AND IN HAPHAZARD MANNER.

E. INFORMATION ON VARIETY AND NUMBER OF COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH US AND OTHER WESTERN FIRMS IS SEVERELY LIMITED BY BULGARIAN SECRETIVENESS. NUMBER OF COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS DEPENDS ON HOW THEY ARE DEFINED, BUT EVEN MOST LIBERAL DEFINITION WOULD KEEP FIGURE WELL BELOW 100.

8. FAMILY MEETINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS. CLEAR DISTINCTION MUST BE DRAWN BETWEEN BULGARIANS WISHING TO VISIT OR JOIN RELATIVES OR FRIENDS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES WHO LEFT BULGARIA "LEGALLY" AND THOSE WHO LEFT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED ILLEGAL BY GOB. FORMER APPEAR TO BE ALLOWED RELATIVE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL; LATTER LARGELY COMPRISE "DIVIDED FAMILY" PROBLEM.

A. DURING 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 1, 1975, EMBASSY ISSUED 96 NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS TO BULGARIANS TRAVELING TO VISIT RELATIVES WHO HAD LEFT BULGARIA LEGALLY. THERE WAS A SURGE DURING JULY AND AUGUST, BUT THIS IS SEASONAL AND THEN PROBABLY UNRELATED TO CSCE. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE COMPARABLE STATISTICS, BUT MOST AGREE THAT TRAVEL BY PERSONS IN THIS CLASSIFICATION APPEARS RELATIVELY FREE. IN LATE 1974, EMBASSY FOR FIRST TPME ISSUED NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS TO TWO BULGARIANS TRAVELING TO VISIT RELATIVES WHO HAD LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY. WE BELIEVE THESE WERE

DIRECT RESULT OF HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS ON DIVIDED FAMILY PROBLEM MADE TO THE GOB IN SPRING (DENT VISIT) AND LATE SUMMER OF 1974. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES AGREE POLICY TOWARD BULGARIANS WISHING TO VISIT ESCAPEES IS EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE. ONLY AUSTRIANS REPORT SUCCESSFUL CASES (THREE OR FOUR) WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTE TO CONSTANT AND PERSISTENT BADGERING OF GOB AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY AT ALL LEVELS ON SPECIFIC CASES.

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B. WITH EXCEPTION OF BI-NATIONAL MARRIAGE CASES, DISCUSSED MORE FULLY BELOW, EMBASSY DURING FIRST HALF 1975 ISSUED TWO IMMIGRANT VISAS TO BULGWRIANS TO JOIN SPONSORS BOTH OF WHOM HAD LEFT BULGARIA LEGALLY. EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF EVER HAVING ISSUED IMMIGRANT (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM VISITORS) VISA TO PERSON WHOSE SPONSOR LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES REPORT SIMILAR EXPERIENCE.

C. BULGARIANS DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, BUT OTHERWISE EMBASSY DISCERNs NO SIGNIFICANT DISCRIMINATION AS REGARDS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND VISAS ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF DESTINATION OR ORIGIN.

D. EMBASSY HAS NO RECENT EVIDENCE THAT APPLICANTS ACTUALLY SUFFER PENALTIES OR DISCRIMINATION, BUT WE DO NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY SANCTIONS MAY EXIST. IN ANY CASE, FEAR SUCH DIFFICULTIES MAY ARISE NO DOUBT INHIBITS APPLICANTS;

3. STANDARD CHARGES FOR PERMANENT DEPARTURE APPLI-
CATIONS INCLUDE A 5 LEVA APPLICATION FEE; 85 LEVA PASSPORT FEE, AND APPROXIMATELY 20 LEVA FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES SUCH AS COPIES OF DOCUMENTS, AUTHENTICATIONS AND NOTARIAL SERVICES. (\$1.00 EQUALS 1.20 BULGARIAN LEVA.) CHARGES FOR TEMPORARY DEPARTURE DOCUMENTATION ARE SOMEWHAT LESS.

F. RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF PERSONS HOLDING VALID VISITORS' VISAS INVOLVE ONLY THE USUWL REGISTRATION WITH POLICE FOR ANY OVERNIGHT STAY AND REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL PERMISSION TO ENTER BORDER AREAS. THESE ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS RESTRICTIONS ON GENERAL POPULATION AND NOT EXCESSIVELY INHIBITING. SPECIAL DISPENSATION IS REQUIRED TO ENTER CERTAIN AREAS, MOSTLY ALONG BORDER, BUT IS GENERALLY FORTHCOMING IN BONA FIDE CASES.

G. CASES OF EMERGENCY TRAVEL TO VISIT RELATIVES WHO HAVE LEFT BULGARIA LEGALLY ARE HANDLED ON A PRIORITY BASIS. IN EMBASSY'S SINGLE RECENT EXPERIENCE, TRAVEL PERMISSION AND DOCUMENTATION WAS ISSUED IN FOUR DAYS AS OPPOSED TO 60 TO 90 DAYS NORMALLY REQUIRED. TO OUR OR OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES'

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KNOWLEDGE, AN EMERGENCY OR HUMANITARIAN SITUATION HAS NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED BY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES TO BE AMELIORATING FACTOR WHEN PERSON TO BE VISITED LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY.

H. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE IS NO LIMITATION ON SHIPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL EFFECTS ONCE EXIT PERMISSION HAS BEEN OBTAINED. THERE ARE SEVERE AND OFTEN DISABLING RESTRICTIONS ON EXCHANGE AND TRANSFER OF PERSONAL FUNDS.

9. BINATIONAL MARRIAGES.

A. DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975, THERE WERE SIX MARRIAGES BETWEEN AMERICAN MALES AND BULGARIAN FEMALES, AND EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THREE PENDING CASES. BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES RAISE NO OBSTACLES TO SUCH MARRIAGES UNLESS THERE IS A COMPLICATING FACTOR SUCH AS UNPAID "DEBT" TO THE GOB (NORMALLY INCURRED THROUGH PROVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION) OR WHEN A MEMBER OF HUSBAND'S OR WIFE'S FAMILY LEFT BULGARIA ILLEGALLY. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES, WHICH HAVE APPRECIABLY HIGHER INCIDENCE OF SUCH MARRIAGES, REPORT SIMILAR EXPERIENCE. ACCORDING TO WESTERN COLLEAGUES, MARRIAGES BETWEEN BULGARIAN MEN AND FOREIGN WOMEN ARE NOT PROHIBITED BUT ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED, AND WHEN ALLOWED BULGARIAN HUSBAND IS USUALLY NOT GIVEN PERMISSION TO JOIN HIS WIFE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO CASES OF AMERICAN WOMEN MARRYING BULGARIAN MEN.

B. THE COMMENTS UNDER PARA 8, FAMILY MEETINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS, APPLY.

10. TRAVEL FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REASONS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED GOB PURSUES CLEAR, INTENTIONAL, AND FOR MOST PART SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO LIMIT ACCESS OF BULGARIAN TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH USE OF POLICE "GUARDS" WHO DISCOURAGE VISITS BY BULGARIANS AND THROUGH INSTRUCTIONS TO CITIZENS TO APPLY FOR FOREIGN MTSAS THROUGH BULGARIAN MFA.

A. FOLLOWING FIGURES ARE FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF
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1975 AND INCLUDE BULGARIAN NATIONALS ONLY:

US VISAS FOR PERSONAL TRAVEL	91
US VISAS FOR OFFICIAL GOB TRAVEL (A&G)	27
US VISAS FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL	120

NO NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS WERE REFUSED TO BULGARIAN APPLICANTS DURING THIS PERIOD.

B. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE TOWARD SIMPLIFICATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN ADMINISTRATION OF EXIT AND ENTRY PROCESSES WITH EXCEPTION THAT, WITH ENTERING INTO FORCE OF AMERICAN-BULGARIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT ON MAY 28, 1975, BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO CONSIDER POACCESSION OF VALID US PASSPORT CONTAINING VALID BULGARIAN VISA OBTAINED OUTSIDE BULGARIA AS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF PRIMACY OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP IN POTENTIAL DUAL NATIONAL CASES.

C. THERE HAS BEEN NO EASING OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING MOVEMENT OF AMERICANS WITHIN BULGARIA. SEE ALSO ITEM F, FAMILY MEETINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS.

D. IN NOVEMBER 1974, GOB PROMULGATED A NEW SCHEDULE OF FEES AND MONSWARY REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS AND TOURISTS TO BULGARIA WHICH, ALONG WITH A REVALUATION OF THE LEVA, SUBSTANTIALLY RAISED COST OF BULGARIAN VISAS AND REQUIRES TOURISTSTO EXCHANGE MINIMUM OF 10 US DOLLARS OR EQUIVALENT HARD CURRENCY FOR EACH DAY OF STAY IN BULGARIA.

11. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

A. NO RPT NO US NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES ARE OFFERED FOR PUBLIC SALE, NOT EVEN "THE WORLD." NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES FROM OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES SOLD PUBLICLY ARE LIMITED TO COMMUNIST PARTY PUBLICATIONS. THERE IS VERY LIMITED DIRECT IMPORT OF US AND WESTERN BOOKS, MOSTLY TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS ON DIRECT, INDIVIDUAL ORDER.

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B. THOSE WESTERN COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE SOLD IN HOTELS CATERING TO FOREIGN VISITORS. THERE ARE WESTERN PUBLICATIONS IN SOME PUBLIC LIBRARIES, BUT ACCESS REQUIRES A "LIBRARY CARD" WHICH MEANS THAT READERS HAVE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES, WHICH SERVES TO DISCOURAGE ACCESS. ALSO, SOME PUBLICATIONS ARE GIVEN ONLY TO HOLDERS OF SPECIALS CARDS. IN ADDITION, SOME INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES MAINTAIN WESTERN PUBLICATIONS FOR CLEARED STAFF MEMBERS.

C. POSSIBILITY OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO WESTERN PUBLICATIONS DOES NOT EXIST FOR GENERAL PUBLIC. APPARENTLY OFFICIALS ABOVE A CERTAIN LEVEL AND SPECIALISTS AND TECHNICIANS IN GIVEN FIELDS HAVE ACCESS TO SUBSCRIPTIONS ON A "NEED TO

KNOW" BASIS.

D. WESTERN FILMS SHOWN ARE LIMITED AND TEND TO BE THOSE WHICH WILL PORTRAY WEST, PARTICULARLY US, IN TERMS OF STEREOTYPED COMMUNIST CONCEPTS, E.G. DEGENERATE AND DEPRAVED. EXAMPLES ARE "MIDNIGHT COWBOY" AND "THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY?". BULGARIAN TV OCCASIONALLY HAS NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND "HARMLESS" WESTERN ADVENTURE OR HISTORICAL FICTION FILMS AND HAS ALSO RUN SOME NOTED WESTERN CULTURAL SERIES, E.G. "AGE OF KINGS" AND KENNETH CLARK'S "CIVILIZATION".

E. ONLY RFE BULGARIAN BROADCASTS ARE NOW JAMMED.

F. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO SUCCESS IN PLACEMENT OF US FILMS, TV MATERIAL, AND RADIO ITEMS (OR PRESS MATERIAL, FOR THAT MATTER).

12. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US JOURNALISTS.

A. NO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ARE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED IN BULGARIA, AND VISITS BY AMERICAN NEWSMEN ARE INFREQUENT. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR SUCH VISITS DURING PAST YEAR. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF ANY REJECTION OF VISAS FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS.

B. MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS ARE NOT ACCORDED. NEITHER, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, ARE WE AWARE OF ANY HAVING BEEN REQUESTED.

C. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY FORMAL RESTRICTIONS ON JOURNALISTS' TRAVEL.

D. ACCESS TO OFFICIAL SOURCES IS CONTROLLED AND LIMITED, IN PART THROUGH PRACTICE THAT APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE THROUGH SOFIA PRESS, AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION AGENCY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THERE IS LACK OF INTEREST OR RELUCTANCE ON PART OF OFFICIALS IN MEETING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. INTERVIEWS ACCORDED ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY GENERAL, GUARDED, AND WARY. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO ACCESS TO PRIVATE SOURCES.

E. ONLY PRINT REPORTERS HAVE VISITED BULGARIA RECENTLY, SO QUESTION OF EQUIPMENT HAS NOT ARISEN.

F. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY VOA CORRESPONDENT HAS ATTEMPTED TOICNFXSTORIES DIRECTLY FROM BULGARIA RECENTLY. HE WAS NOT HINDERED, BUT WAS CHARGED MORE THAN \$200 PER "FEED".

G. NO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED.

13. CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES.

BULGARIANS HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR INCREASE IN
EXCHANGES, PRIMARILY IN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL FIELDS.
BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH US IS NOW BEING NEGOTIATED.
SIMILAR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REACHED
WITH MANY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
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